

The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of non-inflammatory bowel diseases, diarrhoea-predominant irritable bowel syndrome or other non-specific bowel disorder comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prophylaxis an effective amount of balsalazide or a salt or a derivative thereof or a composition comprising balsalazide or a salt or a derivative thereof together with a suitable carrier.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the method alleviates symptoms of alternating diarrhoea and constipation type Irritable Bowel Syndrome or constipation-predominant Irritable Bowel Syndrome.
3. A method according to claim 1 for the treatment or prophylaxis of one or more of Non-inflammatory Bowel Disease, diverticulosis, diverticulitis, diarrhoea-predominant Irritable Bowel Syndrome, Irritable Bowel Syndrome, bloating, diarrhoea, cramping, pain, low abdominal pain, distension, wind, flatulence, gas production, fluid secretion, mucus production, constipation, urgency, non ulcer dyspepsia, spastic colon, unstable colonic neurosis, spastic colitis, mucous colitis, alternating constipation/diarrhoea, incontinence, alternating diarrhoea and constipation type IBS or constipation IBS.
4. A method according to claim 1 wherein the patient is a mammal.
5. A method according to claim 4 wherein the patient is a human.
6. A method according to claim 1 wherein balsalazide is administered together with one or more of a 4ASA or 5ASA compound.
7. A method according to claim 6 wherein the 5-ASA or 4-ASA compound is mesalazine, olsalazine, sulfasalazine, ipsalazide, benzalazine, para-amino salicylic acid (4-amino salicylic acid) and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.
8. A method according to claim 1 wherein balsalazide is administered together with olsalazine for the treatment or prophylaxis of diarrhoea predominant, constipation predominant or alternating diarrhoea and constipation type Irritable Bowel Syndrome.
9. A method according to claim 1 wherein balsalazide is administered together with mesalazine for the treatment or prophylaxis of diarrhoea predominant Irritable Bowel Syndrome.
10. A method according to claim 1 wherein the balsalazide is administered together with anti-cholinergics, probiotics, antibiotics or anti-spasm medications.
11. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of non-inflammatory bowel diseases, diarrhoea-predominant irritable bowel syndrome or other non-specific bowel

disorder comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prophylaxis an effective amount of a 4-ASA or 5-ASA compound modified to include a 4-ABA side chain or a salt or a derivative thereof or a composition comprising the compound or a salt or a derivative thereof together with a suitable carrier.

- 5           12. Use of balsalazide or a salt or derivative thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of non-inflammatory bowel diseases, diarrhoea-predominant Irritable Bowel Syndrome or other non-specific bowel disorder.

13. Use of a 4-ASA or 5-ASA compound modified to include a 4-ABA side chain or a salt or derivative thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or  
10 prophylaxis of non-inflammatory bowel diseases, diarrhoea-predominant Irritable Bowel Syndrome or other non-specific bowel disorder.